REVENUE COMMISSIONER.

Circular Memo No. 3948-56, *dated* 12*th October* 1906.

Under Rule 98 of the Land Revenue Rules, a sale for arrears of revenue is conducted by the shekdar if the estimated value of movable or immovable property does not exceed Rs. 100, but no rules are laid down as to how and by whom the property is to be valued.

Further the forms of proclamation of sale (*vide* Appendix B of the Land Revenue Rules) do not give the estimated value of the property except in the case of buildings, the present practice being to enter the estimated value in the declaration of forfeiture.

2. In the Dasara Representative Assembly Subject No. 70 of 1905, it has been represented that lands forfeited for arrears of revenue are often purposely undervalued by the village officials in order to enable the shekdars to hold the sale. As such undervaluation occasionally takes place leading to fraudulent practices and consequent violation of the sales, the Revenue Commissioner lays down the following procedure in valuing the property proposed to be sold for arrears of revenue :—

"The value of the property about to be sold for revenue arrears should ordinarily be estimated by the shekdar after consulting a panchayat, of which the patel and shanbhog of the village shall form members. The panchayat must be instructed to fix the value of the land with reference to the price fetched by similar land in the neighbourhood. The patel and shanbhog shall be responsible for omission to report any transactions which might to their knowledge have taken place as regards any of the items of property in question. The ordinary practice of valuing the property at just above the arrears or the amount of assessment should be discontinued. The trees, wells, etc., of any value on the property should also be correctly described as far as possible together with their estimated market value."

Circular No. 4167-74—3, *dated* 26*th October* 1906.

Rule 85 of the Land Revenue Rules lays down instructions for the proper inspection and maintenance of boundary marks. That these instructions have not been properly enforced is clear from the facts brought to notice in para 2 of Government Proceedings No. R. 2656-67—L. S. 53-05, dated 30th August 1906, reviewing the annual progress report of the Revenue Survey Department. The rule itself was promulgated after careful consideration and is not difficult of execution.

The Revenue Commissioner is led to infer that the village officers and shekdars who are primarily responsible for the inspection and preservation of boundary marks, have not been kept to their duty and properly punished for their neglect by the higher Revenue officers. He therefore directs that the Deputy Commissioners of Districts should, in their Jamabandi and Revenue Administration Reports, bring to notice the work of each Amildar in this branch and recommend, if necessary, the stoppage of promotion to the Amildars who are slack in the performance of this work. A memo of instructions drawn up for the guidance of subordinate officers in carrying out the provisions of Rule 85, is appended.

Memorandum of instructions re the preservation of boundary marks in Survey numbers, circulated with Circular No. 4167-74, *dated* 26*th October* 1906.

It is essential for the proper safeguard of the rights of holders of Survey numbers that their Survey marks should be properly maintained. The rules on the subject are quite sufficient for the purpose provided they are systematically and intelligently carried out. A few suggestions are here given for the guidance of subordinate Revenue officers to secure the efficient discharge of this most important work.

2. Rule 85 of the Land Revenue Rules (Chapter XIII) provides for a twofold inspection of Survey marks :—(a) the yearly inspection of every Survey number by the village officers [clauses (*a*) and (*c*)] and (*b*) a test inspection to be systematically carried out in a period of four years for every hobli of a taluk by the shekdar and a few taluk officials deputed for the purpose [clauses (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*)]. In both cases provision exists for the checking of this work by higher officers [clauses (*f*) and (*g*)].

3. (*a*) *Yearly inspection by village officers (Pahani).*—

(i) It is highly desirable that the village officers should begin the Pahani as early as possible each year so as to give sufficient time to defaulting raiyats for [illegible]plying deficiencies before their second inspection begins in accordance wit[illegible] (*b*).